


DIABLO CANYON RURAL PLANNING AREA

Evolving Traditions in a New Economy

A Collaboration of the Bar T Bar and Flying M Ranches, the Diablo Trust, and Coconino County



Conservation, viewed in its entirety, is
the slow and laborious unfolding of a new
relationship between people and land.

Aldo Leopold

(front cover) Ephemeral lake on Anderson Mesa.

(inside cover) Old barn at Moqui.



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Plan Approval and Adoption

The final draft plan was approved by the Diablo Trust at their annual meeting on February 25, 2005. The goals, policies, and action plan were approved by the Diablo Trust Operations Team on June 17, 2005.

The final document was approved by the Coconino County Planning and Zoning Commission on June 28, 2005, and adopted as an amendment to the *Coconino County Comprehensive Plan* by the Board of Supervisors on August 16, 2005.

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-T- M



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acknowledgements



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Other Participants

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foreword



Expansive landscapes, scenic open space, and the natural environment are hallmarks of Coconino County. While many of these wide open spaces are public lands managed for their natural qualities by government agencies such as the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management, approximately three-fourths of the private land in the County is maintained in an open and undeveloped condition by cattle ranching. Working ranches play an important role in defining the unique character and sense of place that attracts residents and visitors to Coconino County.

Ranching, however, is first and foremost an economic pursuit. When economic conditions become unfavorable to ranching, those ranch lands and working landscapes tend to be converted to other uses such as housing developments or 40-acre ranchettes. When that occurs, landscapes are fragmented, there is a loss of open space and habitat values, and our cultural and historical values are diminished. In other words, Coconino County becomes less unique and special, and more like everywhere else.

The “Rural Planning Area” concept is a means by which traditional agricultural enterprises such as ranching can be preserved in the face of changing economic conditions. The intent of the *Diablo Canyon Rural Planning Area* is to identify a range of economic opportunities that would be compatible with maintaining traditional ranch operations on the Flying M and Bar T Bar. To be sure, some of the options identified in this plan are very different from traditional ranch practices, but they are intended to help support the existing ranches economically while keeping the ranches intact and operating into the next generation and beyond.